

Form 10-300
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Richmond	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Menokin (Francis Lightfoot Lee House)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Menokin

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **4-miles northwest of Warsaw via County Rte 690 to roadside marker, then left on dirt road for 1.5-miles to the house ruins.**

CITY OR TOWN:
Warsaw

STATE: **Virginia** CODE: COUNTY: **Richmond** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Vacant</u>	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Mr. J. Murwin Omohundro

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 34

CITY OR TOWN: **Warsaw** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **22562**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Clerk's Office, Circuit Court of Richmond County

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: **Warsaw** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: _____

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **590 acres Total; 143 acres in hist. site**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (20 sheets, 16 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1934, 1940** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE: _____

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built as a gift by Colonel John Tayloe of Mount Airy, Menokin was probably completed in 1769 when Tayloe's daughter married Francis Lightfoot Lee. Architecturally similiar, but built on a smaller scale than nearby Mount Airy, the hand of the same builder may be seen in both (possibly John Ariss, to whom Mount Airy (1758-62) is attributed). The late Georgian design of Menokin was almost certainly influenced by William Adam's Vitruvius Scoticus.

The exterior of Menokin, a two-story hip-on-hip-roofed house, is unusual in that it possesses the qualities of a mansion although the residence is modest in its actual dimensions: 40 by 43-feet. The house is constructed of local brown sandstone which is plastered over, except for elaborate stone trim, in the form of quoins, belt courses, and window and door trim. The main (or north) facade is divided horizontally by two stone belt courses which occur at the second floor line and at the sill level of the upper windows. On the other three elevations the upper belt course is eliminated. The trim of the lower windows is a broad plain band, but the second story openings are framed by fully molded architraves, interrupted by rusticated blocks.

The main (north) facade is three bays wide and its center doorway is surmounted by a arched fanlight, and the whole is framed by broad pilaster-piers and unmoulded archivolt. At the head is a large keystone carved with a crude spray of leafage.

The mansion (large-scale) quality of the original composition must have been considerably heightened by the two detached symmetrical service buildings that once set on the forecourt perpendicular to the main house. The kitchen, which once stood to the east, disappeared many years ago, but the office to the west, stood until recent times. The stone office building was two-stories in height, measured 20 by 32-feet, and had a low gable roof with small inside end chimneys. The end walls had no openings and were unornamented except for a belt course at the second floor line. The long side toward the forecourt had a central arched doorway flanked by a single window on either side. The interior of the office, which had two rooms on each floor, contained some good wood work.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1769-1797**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Menokin was the home, from 1769 to 1797, of Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence for Virginia, planter, and politician. The house still stands but is vacant and in a ruinous condition.

Brief Sketch of the Life of Francis Lightfoot Lee, 1734-1797.

Francis Lightfoot Lee, the son of a wealthy planter, was born at the Lee family seat, "Stratford," in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on October 14, 1734. He did not attend college but received an excellent education at the hands of tutors. Leaving Stratford in early life, he settled on "Coton" in Loudoun County, Virginia, an estate which he inherited from his father, Thomas Lee, in 1750. Lee served as a representative of Loudoun County in the House of Burgesses from 1758 to 1769. In the spring of 1769 he married Rebecca Tayloe, the 17 year old daughter of John Tayloe of Mount Airy, Richmond County, Virginia. Lee lived at Mount Airy with his bride until his father-in-law completed "Menokin," which he built for them on a nearby plantation. Lee was almost immediately elected as a burgess for Richmond County and served in that capacity from 1769 to 1776. He was a delegate to the Continental Congresses from 1775 to June 1779. On his return to Virginia he sat for a time in the Virginia senate and then retired from public life. He died at Menokin on January 11, 1797, only a few months after the death of his wife. They were both buried in the Tayloe family cemetery adjacent to the Mount Airy plantation house. The Lees had no children and Menokin then passed to his nephew, Ludwell Lee.

A State Historical Marker (J-73), located on Virginia Route 690, 4.1-miles north of Warsaw and some distance from Menokin, reads:

"Near here is Menokin, home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Lee was a member of the Continental Congress from 1775 to 1779 and died at Menokin in 1797."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XI, 105. Article by H.J. Eckenrode.
 Thomas T. Waterman and John A. Barrows, Domestic Colonial Architecture of Tidewater Virginia (New York, 1932), 150-160.
 Thomas T. Waterman, The Dwellings of Colonial America (Chapel Hill, 1950), 61, 63.
Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion (American Guide Series) (New York, 1947), 547-548.
 Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J.E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 8.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38°	00'	50"	76°	48'	50"
NE	38°	00'	50"	76°	47'	17"
SE	38°	00'	00"	76°	47'	17"
SW	38°	00'	00"	76°	48'	50"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE: **6/4/71**

STREET AND NUMBER: **801 - 19th Street N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D.C.** CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Richmond	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (1)

Menokin
(Francis Lightfoot Lee House)

In the main house, a center hall containing the stair extends half way through the structure. To the right is the kitchen, and to the left, the dining room. In the rear and to the center left, is a large living room and in the southwest (right) corner, a bedroom. Upstairs there are four bedrooms divided into pairs by the central hall. The main rooms once had paneled dados, and the large drawing room a paneled overmantel. The cornice of this room was enriched with dentils. The stairs was of the open string type with square balusters set at an angle, and simply scrolled stair-end brackets. Menokin has been unoccupied for many years and is now in a state of complete ruin. The original panelling has been removed from the rooms and placed in storage by the owner for its protection. The roof and walls on the southeast or river elevation have collapsed from the weight of snows. The yard and grounds are overgrown with vines, small trees, and shrubs.

Extensive restoration and considerable reconstruction work will be required if ruined Menokin is to be saved. The vacant house is not open to visitors. The road to the house is closed by a gate which carries a no trespassing sign. Menokin now includes about 590 acres and is used for farming purposes.

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series,
Montross Quadrangle, Virginia,
1943.

"Menokin" Historic 1/4 Section
Map

Rock/Spring
Hill

Farmers
Fork

Piney Grove
Sch

Ston Hill

House

Menokin Box

Menokin
Millpond

(TAPPAHANNOCK)

47°30"

WARSAW (U.S. 360) 3.4 MI.

SCALE 1:24 000

76° 48' 14"

NE

NW

SE

SW

38° 00' 29"